

To: House Health

Senate Health and Welfare

From: Kristin J. Chandler, J.D.

Coordinator, Team Two

Re: Mental Health Training for Police in Vermont

Date: February, 2023

**Required for law enforcement certification: 8 HOURS of Interacting with Persons with Mental Illness**

**Taught at the Vermont Police Academy for both full time and part time officers during basic training. An officer, a mental health clinician and a lawyer with experience in Vermont's mental health law instruct this class. It's a combination of lecture and video presentations.**

**Optional: Team Two**

**Team Two is offered in 5 regions in Vermont every year since 2013. It is a one day, scenario-based training with 36 instructors who facilitate small group discussions among their first responder peers. Team Two is funded through a collaboration between the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Safety. It is Vermont's answer to Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which is a 40 hour training designed for major metropolitan areas. In 2018 or 2019, Vermont State Police made Team Two mandatory for all troopers.**

**CIT Pilot Program in Washington County**

**First responders in Washington County can take a 40 hour CIT course, being offered in March on 5 different days over a 2 week period. It is a combination of lecture, role playing scenarios and site visits.**

**Vermont State Police (VSP): Vermont State Police offer their recruits a pre-basic training that includes 3 hours with a mental health clinician or an attorney instructing on the basic structure of our mental health system in Vermont.**

**VSP also provides a post-basic training for 4 hours where recruits are run through at least one scenario with actors and a mental health clinician providing feedback.**

**There is no required follow up or refresher mental health training in Vermont.**

**Other states require de-escalation/mental health related training:**

California: 2 hours every 2 years

Connecticut: 3 hours every 3 years - 3 hours of human relations (including serious mental illness) training as well

Georgia: 1 hour every year - Encouraged (but not required) mental disorder training as well

Maine: 2 hours every year

Massachusetts: 4 hours every year

Michigan: Set advisory standards for mental disorder training

Missouri: 2 hours every year - Mental health training requirement: 2 hours every year

New Mexico: 2 hours every 2 years

Ohio: 2 hours every year

Oklahoma: 2 hours every year

Washington: 2 hours every year